



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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To reach the normal reserve of frozen fish and shellfish usually built up in the fall for winter use, present holdings of these products would have to be nearly doubled by the first of October, Charles E. Jackson, Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, reported today.

Quantities of fish and shellfish in freezers and cold storage houses totaled 58,438,385 pounds on July 1 this year, or 20 per cent below the average holdings at this season, and 34 per cent less than the quantity held on July 1 last year.

Mr. Jackson said that because of the heavy demand for fish this spring, accumulated stocks had been drawn down by June 1 to a level approximately 30 million pounds below the quantity held last spring. Although stocks have been built up at a fairly normal rate since the first of June, the deficit of 30 million pounds still remains.

Holdings of cured fish are also low. On July 1, 14,194,693 pounds of salted fish and 806,747 pounds of smoked fish were on hand, compared with 22,035,211 pounds of salted and 985,367 pounds of smoked fish at the same time last year.

Holdings of most of the staple varieties of fish are only about one-third to one-half as large as last year, the Fish and Wildlife Service figures show. For example, holdings of cod fillets have dropped from 6.8 million pounds to 2.4 million; haddock fillets from 4.0 million to 1.2 million; mackerel from 8.4 million to 3.4 million; lake herring from more than two million to 45 thousand; whitefish from nearly two million to about 300 thousand. In contrast to the general trend, shrimp and most other shellfish have shown slight increases.

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